

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9328

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USCINCEUR/

AMEMBASSY SANA

S E C R E T AMMAN 6352

E.O. 111652 GDS

TAGS: PINS JO

SUBJECT: MILITARY DISSENT IN JORDAN-AN ASSESSEMENT

1. THE FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF AIRGRAM ON SUBJECT
BEING POUCHED ADDRESSEES.

2. DISSENT WITHIN JORDN ARMED FORCES HAS GROWN
CONSIDERABLY WITHIN PAST FEW MONTHS. RECENTLY
COMMANDER IN CHIEF BIN SHAKR AND KING
HUSSEIN HIMSELF WERE RUDELY SHOUTED AT BY TROOPS
THEY VISITED ARMY , ARMY DESERTION RATE HAS INCREASED,
AND RESIGNATION REQUESTS ARE HIGHER THAN EVER. AS
WAS CASE IN 1974 ZARQA MUTINY MAJOR ISSUE IS
FAILURE OF SOLIDIERS PAY TO KEEP PACE WITH INFLATION
BUT FAVORITISM AND CURRUPTION AT SENIOR MILITARY
RANKS ALSO RESENTED.

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3. MILITARY DISSENT FURTHER STIMULATED PERHAPS

BEYOND 1974 ZARQA LEVEL BY TODAY'S HIGHER INFLATION RATE, HIGHER CIVILIAN PAY VERSUS MILITARY PAY AND MORE ALTERNATIVES TO MILITARY CAREER IN JORDAN AND ARAB OIL PRODUCING STATES. MOREOVER CIVILIAN ECONOMIC GRIEVANCES REGARDING INFLATIONARY SQUEEZE POOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES AS ECONOMIC EXPANSION STRETCHES PAT LIMITS OF PUBLIC WATER AND TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES AND SWING OF IMPORTANT PORTION OF PUBLIC MOOD BACK TO TRADITIONAL SOCIAL VALUES IN REACTION TO RULING ELITES COSMOPOLITAN BEHAVIOR HAS ENHANCED CONDITIONS FOR HARMONIC EXPRESSION OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN DISSENT.

4. US INTEREST BEST SERVICED BY CONTINUATION OF KING HUSSEIN IN POWER AS HE GRAPPLES IN MONTHS AHEAD WITH PROBLEMS TRYING TO MAKE MILITARY CUT BACK AND STRETCH OUT PROJECTS AND DEBTS WHILE CONTINUING MONEY GATHERING CAMPAIGNS ABROAD. MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS REMAINS DOWN THE ROAD OF TAKING MORE RESPONSIBLE BELT TIGHTENING FISCAL AND ECONOMIC APPROACHES TO GOJ ACTIVITIES--AND THAT TOO HAS POLITICAL COSTS AT HOME.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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